

61
providing information describing the determined
division.

58 57
62 ✓ 71. (Once Amended) The method of claim 70 further
comprising encoding at least some of the transform coefficients
[signal elements] using the determined division.

60 59
74. (Once Amended) The method of claim 72 wherein the
at least one signal characteristic comprises a magnitude of at
least one transform coefficient [signal element].

61 59
75. (Once Amended) The method of claim 72 wherein the
at least one signal characteristic comprises a difference between
transform coefficients [signal elements].

63 61
76. (Once Amended) The method of claim 75 wherein the
difference comprises a difference in transform coefficient
[signal element] magnitudes.

63 57
77. (Once Amended) The method of claim 70 wherein the
determining comprises beginning a new band when adjacent
transform coefficients [signal elements] significantly differ in
magnitude.

64 57
79. (Once Amended) The method of claim 70 wherein the
determining comprises dividing the transform coefficients [signal

elements] such that at least one band has a number of transform coefficients [signal elements] that is a power of two.

65 80. (Once Amended) The method of claim 57 wherein the determining comprises dividing the transform coefficients [signal elements] such that at least two bands include a different number of signal elements.

66 81. (Once Amended) The method of claim 57 wherein the encoding information describing the dividing comprises encoding the number of transform coefficients [signal elements] included in at least one band.

67 85. (Once Amended) The method of claim 57 [84] wherein the transform coefficients comprise transform coefficients derived from a frame obtained by applying a window to samples of a signal.

71 96. (Once Amended) A method of decoding, comprising:
receiving an encoded signal, the signal being defined by transform coefficients [signal elements] that are discrete in at least one dimension, the encoded signal of the type encoded by:

determining a division of at least some of the transform coefficients [signal elements] into a plurality of bands, at least one of the bands having a plurality of adjacent transform coefficients [signal elements]; and

encoding information describing the determined division; and

decoding at least part of an encoded signal, the decoding comprising using the received encoded information describing the determined division.

99. (Once Amended) The method of claim 97 wherein the at least one signal characteristic comprises a magnitude of at least one transform coefficient [signal element].

100. (Once Amended) The method of claim 97 wherein the at least one signal characteristic comprises a difference between transform coefficients [signal elements].

101. (Once Amended) The method of claim 96 wherein the division comprises a division of the transform coefficients [signal elements] such that at least two bands include a different number of transform coefficients [signal elements].

102. (Once Amended) The method of claim 96 wherein the information comprises the number of transform coefficients [signal elements] included in at least one band.

106. (Once Amended) The method of claim 96 [105] wherein the transform coefficients comprise transform coefficients derived from a frame obtained by applying a window to samples of a signal.